

FATHER DAMIEN

from kindergarten to the middle grades
at saint monica's parish school
i was puzzled by many mysteries
of the religious life,

not the least of which was why
a man would devote the better years of his life
to trying to convert the leopards.

ANOTHER ONE THAT GOT AWAY

when the kid got up and left the bar
with the long succulent scandinavian blonde,
one of the other guys said to me,
"he better not let this one get away,"

and yet another said, "yeah, not with
the three of us left tasting our saliva."
but sure enough the kid returned tight-lipped
ten minutes later.

when i went out to my car,
he followed me and said,
"you know that girl
i escorted to her car?"

"sure," i said.
"she told me she'd never been kissed
by anyone my age."
"yeah?"

"so i kissed her."
"yeah?"
"and when we broke apart
she was breathing heavily."
"yeah?"

"and i said"
"yeah?"
"i said ... 'why don't you let me
take you out to dinner sometime?'"

ah well, i've made the same mistake myself,
and will no doubt make it over and over again.